

REMARKS

Claim 4-32 are pending in this application. In the July 28, 2005 Final Office Action, the Examiner re-asserted the previous rejection of claims 4-32 as obvious over Jeyaraman (U.S. Patent No. 6,311,187) in view of Nakamura (2003/0140136). Applicants respectfully traverse.

In response to the Examiner's original rejection of claims 4-32 as obvious over Jeyaraman in view of Nakamura, Applicants argued that neither Jeyaraman nor Nakamura, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "a predetermined time period." Applicants have amended claim 4 to more clearly and distinctly point out the subject matter they regard as their invention regarding the variable designation of a predetermined time period. The structure that contained "a predetermined time period" now reads:

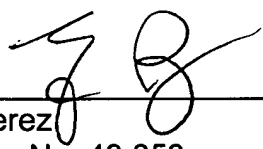
first transmitting means for transmitting said first difference information at first predetermined time cyclically; second transmitting means for transmitting said second difference information at second predetermined time cyclically; and third transmitting means for transmitting third difference information for reproducing the hierarchical structure of the directory at a third predetermined time period; wherein said third predetermined time period is variably designated in accordance with operating state information collected by monitoring operating states of at least one of a receiving side.

Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment puts claim 4 in better condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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